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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION OECD PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241510

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IR
SUBJECT: EC-IRAN PREFERENCES: INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL
REPRESENTATIONS
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REFS: (A) LONDON 14092 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 239205 (NOTAL);

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(C) STATE 218673; (D) STATE 164851; (E) STATE 230852;
(F) BONN 17049; (G) EC BRUSSELS 8514

TEHRAN FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS

1. REF A REPORTED ON CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY SOAMES TO SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN THAT HIGH-LEVEL U.S. REPRESENTATIONS NEEDED IN TEHRAN AND IN EC MEMBER STATES TO HOLD LINE AGAINST EXTENSION OF EC PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO IRAN. SOAMES INDICATED HE HAD HEARD FROM CERTAIN MEMBER STATES THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIONS TO DATE HAD BEEN TOO LOW-LEVEL AND LOW-KEY TO CONVINCE THEM THAT U.S. POSITION HAD BEEN REVIEWED AT HIGH LEVEL. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS GUIDED BY FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:

2. TEHRAN FOR AMBASSADOR: AS INDICATED REFTEL B, WE BELIEVE YOUR REPRESENTATION SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT U.S. OBJECTION TO PREFERENTIAL TRADING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IRAN AND EC IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST IRAN BUT REFLECTS INSTEAD LONG STANDING US POLICY OF OPPOSING EXTENSION OF EC PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. BECAUSE OF KEY ROLE IRAN PLAYS IN WORLD TRADE AND FINANCE, ADDITION OF IRAN AS NEW SPOKE IN EC TRADING NETWORK WOULD CONSTITUTE IMPORTANT REVERSAL OF RECENT AGREEMENT WITHIN EC ON STABILIZING PREFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN BASIC GEOGRAPHIC CONFINES OF MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA (WITH THE INCLUSION ALSO OF A FEW SMALL FORMER COLONIES IN CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC).

3. IN POSITIVE TERMS, YOU MAY WISH TO SAY U.S. WELCOMES DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND EC BUT URGE THAT THIS BE NON-DISCRIMINATORY RELATIONSHIP SUCH AS EXISTS BETWEEN IRAN AND U.S. U.S. ASSESSMENT IS THAT GREATER USE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY GENERALIZED SYSTEMS OF PREFERENCE AND GENERAL LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD TRADE ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS THROUGH MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL SECURE GREATER ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS WHICH IRAN SEEKS--WITHOUT UPSETTING U.S.-EC RELATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SENSITIVE
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TO TRADE MEASURES OF DISCRIMINATORY NATURE.

4. FOR EC MEMBER STATES: ADDRESSEES SHOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS (BY AMBASSADOR WHERE APPROPRIATE) TO CORRECT ANY MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT U.S. OPPOSITION TO EXTENSION OF EC PREFERENCES TO IRAN IS OF ONLY MARGINAL POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC INTEREST TO USG. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON PAST INSTRUCTIONS

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(REFTELS C AND D) IN STRUCTURING DEMARCHES TO FIT HOST COUNTRY CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. TEHRAN REQUESTED TO REPEAT CABLE REPORTING ON RESULTS OF ITS REPRESENTATION AND IRANIAN RESPONSE TO OTHER ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES. INGERSOLL

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